

THE ROLFE/ RALPH FAMILIES OF BARTON STACEY, HAMPSHIRE, 17thC to 1880s

by Linda Moffatt © 2018
for the Barton Stacey History Group

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The spelling of this name regularised as *Rolfe* but it is spelt in earlier parish registers as *Rolf*, *Roff(e)*, *Roaf* or *Rofe*. Some family members adopted the surname *Ralph* in the 19th century.

Although the name disappeared from Barton Stacey in the late-1800s, descendants of female family members who married, continued to live in the parish for another hundred years.

The parish registers of Barton Stacey survive from 1713 only. It is possible that the Richard Rolf found soon after this date in the parish was a descendant of the following people whose wills were proved at Winchester.

Hampshire Record Office

Ref. No.

1541U/61	Will of Richard Rolfe (Rowffe) of Newton Stacey, Barton Stacey, Hampshire.
1639A/191	Will and inventory of Margery Rolfe of Bransbury, Barton Stacey, Hampshire, widow.

In the 1710s and 1720s, a Richard Rolf and his wife were the only couple with this surname having children baptised at All Saints', Barton Stacey.

RICHARD ROLF married Mary __?__ (whose surname is presently unknown). Richard died perhaps as early as 1728 - a Richard *Roffe* of Barton Stacey was buried on 28 December 1728. Mary Rolfe was buried on 7 April 1762.

Children of Richard and Mary Rolf, baptised at Barton Stacey (perhaps with others born before the register commencing in 1713),

- i. Mary, baptised 6 February 1714/5, daughter of Richard and Mary *Roffe*.
- ii. William, baptised 31 March 1717, son of Richard and Mary *Rofe*.
- iii. Elizabeth, baptised 10 May 1719.
- iv. **CHARLES**, baptised 6 August 1721, OF WHOM MORE FOLLOWS.
- v. James, baptised 26 March 1723. James Rolf was buried at Barton Stacey 25 April 1770.

CHARLES ROLF, baptised 8 (?6) August 1721 at Barton Stacey, was a son of Richard and Mary Rolfe. He married Mary Gibs at Barton Stacey on 15 October 1767.

Charles Rolfe was buried at Barton Stacey on 19 June 1785 (in the register he is recorded as 'buried by the parish') and Mary Rolfe married secondly Samuel Streater on 10 April 1790.

Children of Charles and Mary (Gibs) Rolfe, baptised at Barton Stacey,

- i. Charles, baptised 5 June 1767.
- ii. Christian, baptised 17 July 1771. She married John Vokes on 21 October 1794 at Barton Stacey.
- iii. Elizabeth, baptised 25 December 1777. Elizabeth Rolfe married George Nately on 1 March 1802 at Barton Stacey.
- iv. Mary, baptised 18 March 1780. Mary *Rolff* married Charles Wight on 18 January 1806 at Barton Stacey.
- v. **JAMES**, baptised 26 October 1783. On 2 December 1820 at Barton Stacey, James *Roaf* married Mary *Gager* (born about 1794 in Barton Stacey, baptism not found). He was a farm labourer, perhaps at Street Farm since their home was north of the Church in Barton Stacey village.

It seems that James Rolfe died in 1867, though he was said to be aged 88.

Note that some of James Rolfe's children went by the surname *Ralph*.

Children of James and Mary (Gaiger) Rolfe, baptised in Barton Stacey,

- i. Sarah, baptised 25 February 1821.
- ii. **CHARLES**, baptised 22 January 1823 in Barton Stacey. A farm labourer, he married in 1857 Hannah Ball (born at Cottage End, Longparish and baptised at Barton Stacey on 2 February 1834, daughter of Charles and Rachel (Streams) Ball). He was a farm labourer living in Bullington at the time of the 1861 census but had moved to a cottage in Barton Stacey village by 1867.

Charles Rolfe died in 1876 aged 53. Hannah lived with her children in one of Fennells Cottages, perhaps part of the house now known as The Gardens. Hannah *Ralph* married Edward Banting later that year and they had a son William Thomas Banting soon after. They raised Hannah's granddaughter Alice Ivy Ralph or Relph, born 1893 in Barton Stacey. Edward Banting died in 1911, Hannah in 1915.

Children of Charles and Hannah (Ball) Rolfe,

- i. Charles, born 1856 in Longparish. Nothing presently known after the census of 1881.
- ii. Mary Jane, born 1858 in Bullington.
- iii. William, born 1862. He died at the age of 17 in 1879.
- iv. **ALBERT JOHN**, born 6 January 1867 in Barton Stacey, known as Albert John *Ralph*. Albert Ralph, labourer of Barton Stacey, joined the Hampshire Regiment at Winchester on 27 October 1886. He was then aged 20 years 9 months and gave his next of kin as his mother Mrs Banting of Barton Stacey. He was 5 feet 6½ inches tall, with dark brown hair, brown eyes and a dusky complexion. Private Ralph was discharged on 26 October 1898 at the end of his 12-year engagement. In 1893 he had achieved a 2nd Class Certificate of Education and spent the next five years in the 1st Class Reserve. He did not serve abroad.

In 1892 he married Rosa Brooks who was a British Subject born in Water Town, Canada around 1872. By 1891 Albert was a labourer in Gillingham, Kent.

This family then moved in the mid-1900s to Bath, where their home in 1911 was in Summerhill Terrace, Beacon Hill. They remained at that address until at least the time of the 1939 Register. Rosetta M. Ralph died in Bath in 1947 aged 78, her husband in 1948 aged 81.

Children of Albert John and Rosa (Brooks) Ralph,

- i. Edward George William, born 1895 in Portsmouth. He was a shop assistant in Bath in 1911.
 - ii. Amy Violet, born 1898 in New Brompton, Kent.
 - ii. Charles Albert, born and died in New Brompton in 1901.
 - iv. James Charles, born 1902 in Gillingham.
 - v. Reginald, born 1904 in Bath. He died in 1907.
 - vi. Mabel Gladys, born 1907.
 - vii. Lily Marjorie, born 1908 and died 1909.
 - viii. Ernest Frank, born 1910.
 - ix. Hilda P., born 1914.
- v. Emma, born 1869. Emma *Ralph* married gamekeeper John Thomas Hoare of Barton Stacey in 1890. He was born in 1866 in Fosbury and baptised 23 December 1866 at Tidcombe, Wiltshire, a son of George and Hannah Hoare. They raised their nine children in the house now known as Chalk Dell in Barton Stacey. See *The Hoare Family of Barton Stacey from 1890* on this website.
- vi. Rosa Kate, born 1872. She was in service in Beckenham, Kent with the family of Philip J. Candy, a clerk at the War Office. In 1898 she married Thomas Frank Thompson, a waterman and boat builder in Richmond, Surrey, where they made their home.
Children - Frank Ralph, Mabel Elizabeth, Alfred Edward, John, George.
- iii. Elizabeth, baptised 17 April 1825. She is perhaps the Elizabeth *Roaf* buried at Barton Stacey on 25 March 1826.
- iv. **JAMES**, baptised 29 April 1827, known as James *Ralph*. He worked, at least at first, for John Wade and on census night in 1841 was sleeping in Mr Wade's stable. He later lodged in the village with the family of his maternal cousin Joseph Gaiger.
He married Ann Wood (born in Newham, daughter of William Wood) on 18 March 1857 at St Paul's, Deptford, London. He became a plate layer in Forest Hill, London, where they lived at 23 Railway Cottages there. [At the time of the 1861 census Charles Pearce from Bullington, also a plate layer, was one of three lodgers at their home]. Ann Ralph died in 1892 aged 75, James in 1913 aged 86.
- A son of James and Ann (Wood), born in Forest Hill,**
- i. Charles, born 1858. He died in 1893 aged 35.
- v. John, baptised 30 August 1829. He was a farm worker in Barton Stacey

- and died unmarried in 1900 aged 71.
- vi. Mary Ann, baptised 11 March 1832.
 - vii. Henry, baptised 1 June 1834. He died in infancy and was buried at Barton Stacey on 16 December 1834.
 - viii. Jane, baptised 20 December 1835. Jane Rolfe died aged 22 in 1858.
 - ix. William, baptised 31 March 1839.
- vi. [presumably] Sarah. Sarah *Roff* married William Lock on 18 October 1808 at Barton Stacey.

An apparently unconnected Ralph family arrived in Barton Stacey around 1880.

ALFRED THOMAS RALPH was born in 1859 in Collingbourne, Wiltshire. He came to Barton Stacey around 1880 and was a gardener and domestic coachman for Joseph Hill, a retired farmer who lived, we believe, at what is now called Barton Cottage at the southern end of Barton Stacey village. He married in 1882 Sarah Jane Godwin (born 1856 in Barton Stacey, daughter of William and Ann M. Godwin). They moved to Surrey in the late 1880s and about ten years later moved again to Weston, Hertfordshire.

Children of Alfred Thomas and Sarah Jane (Godwin) Ralph,

- i. Alfred Frederick, born 1883 in Barton Stacey.
- ii. Sidney Colin, born 1885 in Barton Stacey. A coach painter, he married Winifred Elenor Vincent in Surrey in 1909. He enlisted on 5 June 1916 at Kingston, Surrey with the 3rd Bn, East Kent Regiment (service number 8277). He was killed in action on 20 November 1917, serving with 4th Bn, Royal Fusiliers (Service number G/65336).
- iii. Frank, born 1890 in Worplesdon, Surrey.
- iv. Louisa Gladys, born 1893 in Weston, Hertfordshire.
- v. Wilfred John, born 1896 in Weston.
